Christmas Greetings

THE WESTERN
REVIEW

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA
CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT, 1968

AT CHRISTMAS

Let us listen in reverent wonder to the story of the first Christmas in Bethlehem long ago, when humble shepherds and mighty kings knelt together to witness the miracle of His Birth in the manger . . . and choirs of angels sang in the heavens, heralding a new era of hope for all mankind. May the glorious inspiration of that Holy Night when our Saviour was born kindle long-lasting happiness in your heart.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

'Tis the season for joy, thoughtfulness and thank yous. So we're taking time to say just that, and wish you a very Happy Holiday.

Howard Janzen & Staff

PHONE 542-3619 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Community Greets Joyful Christmas

Throughout this community, the Christmas spirit finds expression, as once again, people are proving that this happiest of holidays is a time of tradition. A modern Christmas, just like a good old-fashioned Christmas, calls for gatherings of family and friends, with much merriment, fun and feasting. Gifts and Santa Claus express the mood of the season, especially for the youngsters. Trees and other decorations, music and song, light and laughter set the scene. As a Christian holy day, celebrated in church services and private devotions, Christmas glows with the spirit of good will, and "peace and good will" is the wish and prayer, for all mankind.

All of these traditions of Christmas are wrapped up in one. The true spirit of Christmas is most happily expressed in the exchange of greetings. "Have a Merry Christmas." That says it all — the heartfelt hope for good things for others, the good feeling that prevails, the happiness of the season rising above problems and crises, the wish to give and to share all the holiday joys and blessings.

As a special custom that symbolizes the spirit of Christmas, the exchange of greetings takes many forms. "Merry Christmas" is said person-to-person, with smiles of gladness, wherever friends and family meet. "Merry Christmas" is the message of millions of greeting cards which travel across the miles. And "Merry Christmas" is the theme of today's edition of this newspaper, in which businessmen of the community offer their special greetings and good wishes, their words of appreciation to patrons and friends.

* * *

December 24, 1814

On Christmas Eve in 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was negotiated between the U. S. and Great Britain. This ended the War of 1812.

* * *

Sending Greetings

The custom of exchanging greetings at holiday time is older than Christmas. The custom of the Christmas greeting card, however, is a relatively new one.

Christmas cards originated about 125 years ago, in England. Despite this recent start, printed greetings quickly caught the public fancy and are today one of the most popular forms of Christmas holiday traditions.

* * *

Decorating Trees

The gaily decorated tree so much a part of Christmas has its counterpart in trees adorned with colorful trinkets during the ancient feasts of the winter equinox.

This pagan custom of decorating evergreens became associated with Christmas observances, and legends link it to the birth of Jesus. One such story says that on the night of the Nativity, all the woodland trees burst into bloom and bore fruit.

* * *

Singing Carols

With voices lifted in harmony for "Silent Night," "The First Noel" and other beloved songs, today's carolers carry on a Christmas custom that originated centuries ago.

In the fourth century A.D., St. Basil was praised with a musical poem in honor of the fight for Christianity over the Byzantine emperor Julian. Later in Greece, legends of St. Basil were set to music and sung at Christmas and the New Year.

St. Francis of Assisi led the villagers of Grecchio in singing hymns of praise to the Christ Child when in the 13th century he created a manger scene in this Italian town.

* * *

Tracing Santa

Santa's source, legend says, goes back to the fourth century, when St. Nicholas, a bishop of Asia Minor, was noted for his generosity and gift-giving.

In some countries, St. Nicholas still retains his role as gift-bearer. His day is, traditionally, December 6th, and European children await him on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5th.

A gray horse and a white donkey have each been credited with the honor of transporting him on his gift-giving journeys.

* * *

Giving Gifts

Like greetings, gifts are synonymous with Christmas, as part of a custom that probably has its beginning in the Wise Men's presentation of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child.

Some researchers trace the gift-giving tradition to even earlier, pre-Christian times. During pagan holidays observed at about the same time as the modern Christmas, ancient Romans and Britons exchanged gifts in token of the season.

* * *

Lighting the Way

Light and Christmas go together, for the deepest meaning of the holiday represents Christ, the Light of the world. From the bonfires and candles of yesteryear to the twinkling electric ornaments of today, light symbolizes Christmas.

According to Irish legend, a candle should always be placed in the window on Christmas Eve. Each Christmas, it was said, Christ wanders the earth in search of a welcome, and a candle should light the way.

At Christmas...

We pray that the miracle of His birth in a humble manger will once more spread its wonders, its promise across the land, bringing peace on earth, good will to men. In the joyous spirit of the holiday we offer our thanks to our customers for your many kindnesses. We greatly value and enjoy the privilege of serving you. Merry Christmas.

Imperial Lumber Co. Ltd.

Management and Staff

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

a Joyous Christmas

To all our friends, we send sincere wishes for Yuletide joys!

LLOYD'S JEWELLERY

Arnold Lloyd and Corrinne Dix

PHONE 542-3469 - DRAYTON VALLEY

'A Happy New Year'

A Look At The Western Review Files

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

JANUARY 3
Among young people in the community who spread Christmas cheer were Brownies who packed homemade cookies for elderly people in the area and others who delivered Christmas stockings for patients in the Drayton Valley Hospital. The In-Crowd Teen Club helped with the provision of a hamper for a needy family. The Rotary Club made it's annual distribution of hampers, also....First prize winner in the annual Christmas decorating competition were Mr. and Mrs. Adam Eckert.

JANUARY 10
Frank and Grace Hallett were honored at Tomahawk on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary....Dr. William Henry of Lacombe, Rotary District Governor, paid his official visit to the Drayton Valley club on January 10th.... A fourth class is now under consideration by the kindergarten board.

JANUARY 17
A Drayton Valley rink of Adrian Meier, Wally Peters, Rex Burrows and Bill Johanneson won the Legion Zone play-off at Edson last weekend and will advance to the Northern Alberta finals at Whitecourt....The Voyageurs, a new Drayton Valley Intermediate hockey team, played its first games at the weekend....Brian Gooding and Al Chesterman have resigned from Town Council....Top prize in the annual Oilmen's Bonspiel was won by the Ken Gillis rink.... Father Ayling of Evansburg was honored recently prior to his departure for Bashaw.

JANUARY 24
Total value of building permits for the town of Drayton Valley in 1967 amounted to $872,010, almost double the previous year....An F.M.H.S. team won the Girl's Zone final at Mayerthorpe last weekend and will advance to the finals in Edmonton. Members of the rink were Chris Landreth, Sonia Urchyshyn, Valarie Moody and Cheryl Smith....A career day was held at Frank Maddock High School last week.

JANUARY 31
The Mike Safronovich rink of Buck Creek won the Massey-Ferguson Curl-O-Rama here last week....Air Cadets and their parents enjoyed the first of what is hoped to become an annual parent-cadet supper....Rudolph Zander was elected Reeve of the Stony Plain M.D. Council at last week's meeting....Plans are underway to form a Senior Citizens Club in Drayton Valley....Funeral services were held January 26 for Mrs. Stella Dunington, a pioneer resident of the Violet Grove area.

FEBRUARY 7
Trophies for prize game animals, birds and fish were awarded at last weeks F.G.A. meeting....W.J. Gray was elected president at the organization meeting of the Senior Citizen's Club....A crowd of about 275 turned out for the Pembina Boxing Club's card Friday....Sekura Auctions, after one year in operation, reports a livestock volume during the year totalling $690,000....Mrs. H.T. Deby was elected president of the Women's Institute.

FEBRUARY 14
Tom Johnson has been named president of the Drayton Valley Chamber of Commerce....John Stec of Lodgepole was killed in a truck accident Saturday....The F.M.H.S. girl's curling team placed 2nd in the Northern Alberta finals last weekend....Several area gymkhana clubs have organized the Northwestern Alberta Gymkhana Club....The Lorenz rink of Evansburg won the Legion Zone Bonspiel at the weekend. Members of the rink were Adolph Lorenz, Stella Lorenz, Maggie Paron and Armando Paron.

FEBRUARY 21
Ronald B. Smith and Thomas W.D. Johnson were elected to Town Council in last Wednesday's election....Drayton Valley Lions observed the 10th anniversary of the club last Friday ....Officers of the Canadian Legion and Ladies' Auxiliary were installed a office in a ceremony Tuesday evening....Old Timers of the Moon Lake area were honored at a banquet in that community Wednesday....Rev. A. MacKenzie was officially installed as pastor of St. Elizabeth's Parish at Evansburg last Sunday.

FEBRUARY 28
Thirteen residents attended the annual ratepayers meeting Monday evening....The George Anderson rink of Sedgewick won the Grand Challenge event in the annual open bonspiel held in Drayton Valley last week....A successful banquet of Scouts and Cubs and their fathers was held last week....The Paul Kane team defeated F.M.H.S. Warriors 58-42 to win the North Central Alberta boys basketball title.

MARCH 6
The annual school sub-division meeting here last week was cancelled when no ratepayers showed up....Minor Hockey Night March 1st proved a successful event with all players and minor teams in action....Dog owners in the town plan a series of dog obedience lessons.... The Evansburg N.A.D.P. has won fourth prize for the best quality milk produced during 1967 ....One of Evansburg's oldtimers John Bjornstad 80, died last week.

MARCH 13
Dr. R. Findlay has announced the sale of his chiropractic practice to Dr. Kenneth Heater.... The Norma Stone rink of Edmonton won top honors in the annual Ladies' Bonspiel last week.... Drayton Valley Oil Wives observed the club's 10th birthday last week....President Mark Hooks heads the slate of officers installed by the Warburg Legion Branch last Thursday.

MARCH 20
Harry Brown suffered extensive second degree burns to his arms, back and chest in a fire that destroyed the interior of the family home early Sunday morning....Most Valuable Player award has been presented to Jim Dunn of the Rebels and best defenceman award went to Barry Solnes ....Lee Hurley won the Y.B.C. singles provincial bowling championship at Calgary last weekend.

CONTINUED

Happiness, kindness, and tidings of good will are what we wish you on this holy and happy holiday. We send you our best through this little message to show our appreciation.

A.M. Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
From the Management and Staff
PHONE 542-3901 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

This season, it is our wish that your spirit be moved by the inspiration and hope that distinguished the first Christmas. And that its meaning then . . . of peace and good will toward men . . . will be its meaning now for you and your loved ones.

FRANK ANDREWS SERVICE
Frank and Staff
PHONE 542-4360 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

IT'S TOO COMMON

In most of the United States, the poinsettia is a prized Christmas flower. In Hawaii, however, it grows so profusely that it is considered too common for such an important holiday. Potted orchids, anthurium or the orange-and-blue flower called "bird of paradise" are Hawaiian holiday favorites.

Best Wishes for the

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Thanks to the support of friends old and new, everyday business is a special pleasure. Best wishes for the holiday season.

Double S Farm Supplies Ltd.

PHONE 542-4109 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Tree Radiates Yule Meaning

The Christmas tree, a universally recognized symbol of the merriest season, radiates the meaning of the Christmas story.

For many people, the tree recalls the atmosphere of the holiday home and thus reflects the joyful warmth of the season.

As a religious symbol, the tree with its lights and greenery represents both the story of the garden of Eden and the belief in Christ as the "Light of the world."

Although only a century and a half old in America, the custom of the tree has a history that is measured in many centuries. The forerunner of today's Christmas tree was seen in medieval miracle plays, which were produced as religious instruction for the illiterate — in an era when illiteracy was common and the ability to read a rarity.

A play about Eve's eating the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden was enacted with only one prop on stage, a single, apple-laden fir that became known as the Paradise Tree. The play ended with the promise of the coming of Christ and was usually presented just before Christmas.

At about the same time, people also decorated for the Christmas season with pyramid-shaped frames of light, symbolizing the birth of Christ as the Light of the world.

Early efforts to combine the Paradise Tree and the Christmas Light pyramid are recorded in manuscripts from Germany dating to the 16th century, collected by the Hallmark Cards research library.

The first tree was thought to have been brought to the United States by Hessian soldiers during the American Revolution. These homesick soldiers and other immigrants carried the tree throughout the country.

BOTH ELEMENTS THAT LED TO TODAY'S Christmas tree — the Paradise Tree and the Christmas Lights pyramid — are shown in this antique Christmas card of the 1880's. The card was published by Opbacher Brothers of Munich, Germany, and is part of the Hallmark Cards Historical Collection.

A major setback almost occurred in Cleveland in 1851 when a pastor decorated a tree in his home. His parishioners condemned the tree as pagan, but relented after an explanation of its religious aspects.

Conservation-minded President Theodore Roosevelt again nearly stamped out the practice when he banned trees in the White House. After one of his sons sneaked a Christmas tree into the White House, a forester convinced the President that thinning helped forests.

The tree that is common today is a combination of the religious elements. The evergreen with glass, plastic or metal balls hanging from it is the Paradise Tree with its apples. Lights, tinsel, angels, a star on top, ornaments and other "good things" reflect the Christmas Light.

CAROLING EVERYWHERE

In every country where Christmas is celebrated, carols are a part of the celebration.

Merry Christmas

It's time once again to take pause, in the spirit of the beautiful Christmas season, to greet fine friends and neighbors with best wishes. And to add deep appreciation for your favors, good will.

From The Management and Staff

MARSHALL WELLS

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Warm Wishes

Christmas is a winter wonderland, covered by a blanket of pure white snow. We send you our sentiment during this brisk season through our warmest wishes and a hearty Merry Christmas.

DR. SHIMBASHI and STAFF

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Merry Christmas

Rosy cheeks sparkling eyes, happy voices... children in anticipation of everything that Christmas brings: the family tree, stacks of presents, bells ringing out sweet carols, stockings filled with goodies, Santa Claus...and the solemnity of each tiny creche. Watching the delight, the awe, the wonder in a child's face is knowing the Spirit of Christmas. To all, our sincere greetings of the season plus our gratitude and thanks.

BLOCK'S STORE

Mr. and Mrs. H. Hamdon and Staff

PHONE 542-3625 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

FROM SAINT NICHOLAS TO ST. NICK

How Santa Looks Shows Change

His White Beard, Red Suit Are Recent Garb

Genial, jovial, red-cheeked and white-bearded. As any child can tell you, that's how Santa Claus looks.

But the benevolent giver of presents has not always been pictured like this, nor has he always traveled by sleigh or brought his gifts on Christmas Eve. In fact, he has not always been named Santa Claus!

"Santa Claus" is in truth a child's euphonic way of expressing the Dutch "Saint Nikolaas," or St. Nicholas, says The Encyclopedia Americana.

St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop, was later honored, in Europe, as a friend to children. Legend finds him making his rounds on December 5th, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, with gifts to reward children for good behavior.

Instead of a jolly red suit, St. Nicholas wore a robe, or tabard, and for that reason he really didn't need a sleigh, or even a horse. His robe enabled him to travel from place to place, instantly.

In Holland, however, he was said to use a horse for his journey at night over the roofs.

Dutch settlers brought St. Nicholas to the New World, where he gradually changed his name to Santa Claus and traded his horse and robe for reindeer and a red suit.

It was Clement C. Moore, in his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," who made Santa into a jolly elf "Saint Nick," who rides "in a miniature sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer."

In more recent years, St. Nicholas in his new guise as Santa Claus has journeyed to many parts of the world, becoming the most widely known of gift givers.

ST. NICHOLAS, who preceded Santa as a Christmas gift giver, was pictured on an 1870 greeting card as a monk-like figure.

FATHER CHRISTMAS, a rather stern resident of the North Pole, appears on this turn-of-the-century greeting card.

METAMORPHOSIS OF SANTA CLAUS. FROM St. Nicholas in a monk's blue robe, to jolly St. Nick in a bright red suit, can be traced in the history of Christmas greeting cards — witness this 1909 card. The gift giver here, who looks somewhat like the modern Santa Claus, wears a red jacket, but his trousers, like St. Nicholas' robe, are still blue, and he is mounted on a hobby horse rather than a reindeer-drawn sleigh — the historical result of the introduction into American folklore, by early Dutch settlers, of St. Nicholas on a horse. The 1909 Santa carries his gifts in a straw basket, which later became the Christmas sack of toys. Cards shown are from the Norcross Historical Collection.

Of St. Nicholas

Long before Santa traveled by sleigh, St. Nicholas, special guardian of children, set forth on foot, or rode by horse or donkey, to bring gifts to European homes.

The good saint's day is December 6th, and "on the eve of his festival day," writes an Encyclopedia Americana authority, "St. Nicholas makes his tour, visiting palace and cottage.

'The children place receptacles for the gifts, which St. Nicholas is expected to let fall down the chimney. . . . Sometimes shoes are neatly polished for the purpose, at other times plates, or baskets, or stockings, or specially made shoes of porcelain.

"St. Nicholas' steed . . . is not forgotten. For him the children put water and hay, or carrot or potato peeling, or a piece of bread in the shoe, or basket, or stocking.

"In the morning from the tipped-over chairs and general disarray in the room it is evident that St. Nicholas has been present.

"Replacing the oats, or hay, or carrot are found sweets and playthings for children who have been good. For bad children, rods are left, and the fodder is untouched."

And Other 'Santas'

Though Santa Claus is today's most popular Christmas-season gifts giver, he still has plenty of help.

In Northern Europe, many children await the arrival of St. Nicholas, on the Eve of December 5th. In Spain and Latin America, the "Three Kings" traditionally bring gifts on Epiphany Eve, January 5th.

Buzzing with Holly

An English tradition of long ago says that sprigs of holly should be placed in beehives at Christmas. This stems from a legend that, at the Manger, bees gathered to hum a hymn of joy.

Too all our customers, best wishes for a Merry Christmas. We thank you warmly!

tastee-freez®

Management & Staff
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA.

We wish you all the joy of a very Merry Christmas.

Our thanks for your friendly favors and loyal trust, support.

From The Management and Staff
J & A TRUCKING LTD.
PHONE 542-3722 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

As jolly Santa wends his way, bringing wonderful gifts for you, we'd like to add our appreciation. Happy holidays.

McGREGOR SALVAGE
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

Christmas Greetings

For all the bountiful blessings of Christmas, let us rejoice! To each and every one of our good friends and patrons, we extend, with sincere appreciation, good wishes for the holiday.

From The Management and Staff
PEMBINA DRUG CO. LTD.
PHONE 542-3366 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

A Look At The Western Review Files

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

MARCH 27
Bonnie Reich of Tomahawk won the Rotary Club speaking contest Wednesday and will take part in the "Adventure in Citizenship" trip to Ottawa this summer....The Glen Hansen rink won the Lodgepole annual Men's Bonspiel.... Work on the St. John's School at Genesee is progressing with April 1st set as the tentative date for start of construction....Members of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge at Entwistle held a mortgage burning ceremony on March 15th.

APRIL 3
The 13th annual ice carnival held Saturday has been declared the most successful to date. Queen of the Carnival was Miss Carol McGaughey....Tomahawk Totems defeated the Drayton Valley Elks in a best three out of five series to win the Rotary trophy....The Town of Drayton Valley, ID's 77 and 78 and the Town of Lodgepole have opted out of the Recreation Area proposal that has been under consideration with Stony Plain and communities east of here....A long time resident of the Reno district Mrs. Jack Lee passed away March 19th.

APRIL 10
About two hundred farm residents attended the annual meeting of Sub-District 5 F.U.A. in the Elks Hall Thursday....The Community Choir is Preparing for the presentation of an Easter Cantata....Members of the Tomahawk Totems were honored at a banquet in the hall of that community last week.... ATA awards for highest grade nine exam results were presented this week to Fred Kaarsemaker and Bonnie Heyland of F.M.H.S.

APRIL 17
The Stony Plain West End semi-final public speaking contest was held in the Sundance Hall recently....Plans were underway at a meeting this week for the annual Wildwood Agricultural Fair....1,000 delegates are expected here for an assembly by Jehovah's Witnesses in early May.

APRIL 24
Second annual bull sale was held here last Saturday....Lee Hurley placed second in the National Youth Bowling Dominion final....Forty delegates were in Drayton Valley last week for the regional meeting of the Urban Secretaries Association....F. Schipper has been elected president of the Lions Club....Mrs. H. Dahl has been renamed president of the Registered Nurses Assn. for a second term.

MAY 1
Eric Edholm, 82, a long-time resident was honored prior to his departure for B.C....Sigmund Moltzan has purchased Ernie's Tire Sales and Service....John Wronko has been elected Golf Club president....District O.O.R.P. meeting was held Saturday at Seba Beach....Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fausak of Evansburg were honored April 20th on their golden wedding anniversary ....Mrs. Gwen Simpson has been elected president of the Alberta Figure Skating Association.

MAY 8
H.L. Gourlay of Banff won the P.C. nomination in the new Rocky Mountain Riding....Howard Pickup has sold his interest in the drug store business to Richard Keldson of Olds....Pete Vowk caught a 9 lb. 7 oz. Walleye in the Pembina River Saturday....The Tomahawk Hall was filled to overflowing for the AGT Teleshow....Rev. Galen Drawbough and family are moving to a parish near Toledo, Ohio.

MAY 15
Three hundred and forty-seven Drayton Valley and area residents took part in Saturday's 25 - mile "Miles for Millions" March which earned a pledge sum of $5,802.45....At a regular meeting Town Council set the new millrate at 75, an increase of 10 mills over last year....Mrs. Vera Maine won the grand prize of $1,000 at the Lions bingo Saturday....Mrs. Kay Meraw is the new president of the Oil Wives Club....The town's new street sweeper is now in use....Eight Seba Beach marchers raised $589 in a "Miles for Millions" March.

MAY 22
Two hundred men and machines are fighting a forest fire raging out of control west of Drayton Valley. About 10,000 acres have already been burned out and at the height of the outbreak Sunday and Monday the fire was advancing at times on a seven mile front. Brush is tinder dry and constant gusty winds have led to one outbreak after another throughout the area....Allan Sulatycky won the Liberal nomination for Rocky Mountain....Construction of the new Drayton Valley IGA started with a sod-turning ceremony last week.

MAY 29
"Drayton Daze", a community shopping spree, will take place this weekend....The forest fire that raged through a large tract west of Drayton Valley last week was reported under control at the weekend....Alder Flats celebrated the 1st anniversary of the Centennial Canoe Pageant with a sports day Saturday....The expansion program at the Brazeau dam is now well underway.

JUNE 5
The Bowl of Hygeia Award to the "Pharmacist of the Year" for 1967 is to be awarded to Howard W. Pickup for community service during 1967 and previous years....Mr. James Orieux has announced his intention of resigning as principal of St. Anthony's School....Six candidates will contest Rocky Mountain Constituency in the forthcoming federal election....Mrs. Dorothy Jahnke was honored Thursday on her tenth anniversary as Hospital Matron.....Funeral services were held this week for two Tomahawk men, Mr. Henry Welk and Mr. William Zander.

JUNE 12
Mr. and Mrs. N.R. Gylander and Mr. and Mrs. W. Mustard celebrated Golden Anniversaries in May....Carl Jocksch of Whitecourt won the Drayton Valley open golf tournament.... Annual inspection of the Drayton Valley Air Cadet Squadron was held last Thursday evening ....Ronald Arthur Lunn, 2 years, of Drayton Valley, lost his life in a tractor mishap at Ferintosh....Gordon McManus is the new president of the Drayton Valley Bowling Association.

CONTINUED

Christmas Greetings

Here's wishing you a merry old-fashioned Christmas. And to you, warm thanks for your confidence and trust! It has been a pleasure to serve you.

from "The Boys" at

VALLEY CONCRETE

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Joy at Christmas

We heartily hope that the true joy of Christmas may light the way for you and yours throughout the year. And we take this wonderful opportunity to thank you for your loyal patronage.

Roy Burrows Motors Ltd.

AND STAFF

PHONE 542-4200 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Honoring Christmas, In Poetry and Prose

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year."

So wrote Charles Dickens, for whom Christmas was a favorite topic — so much so that most people, asked to name someone who wrote about Christmas, would immediately answer, "Dickens."

Not only Dickens, but almost every writer, from the little-known to the famous, has been inspired at some time in his career to "honor Christmas" in prose or poetry. For instance —

At Christmas I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth,
But like of each thing that in season grows.

William Shakespeare

* * *

At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

Thomas Tusser

For somehow, not only at Christmas, but all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

John Greenleaf Whittier

* * *

England was merry England, when
Old Christmas brought his sports again.

Sir Walter Scott

* * *

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And soft and sweet the words repeat,
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

* * *

So shall we learn to understand
The simple faith of shepherds then,
And clasping kindly hand in hand,
Sing, "Peace on earth, good will to men!"

James Russell Lowell

* * *

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

Clement Clarke Moore

Santa's Moving To Take Lead As Gift-Giver

More and more, Santa becomes the favored gift-giver in countries around the world, replacing a host of legendary figures who were said to bring gifts at this same season of the year.

Gift-giving time, too, is now more likely to be Christmas Eve, although the traditional date in European countries once ranged from St. Nicholas Eve, December 5th, to Epiphany Eve, January 5th.

Among the many who set the trend for Santa Claus is the German gift-giver, Kris Kringle. The name is a variation of Christkind—not the Infant Jesus himself, but his messenger who came to earth at Christmastime.

Christkind was represented by a child dressed in white robes, with a crown and wings of gold.

In Japan, the traditional gift-giver is a native god, Hoteiosho. Represented as a kindly old man with a pack on his back, he is much like visions of the traditional Santa.

He is said to have eyes in the back of his head, the better to see whether boys and girls have been naughty or nice.

In Yugoslavia, Grandfather Frost — "Dede Mraz" — replaces Santa Claus.

The Yugoslavian trend is to combine Christmas and New Year holidays, and celebrate them together with Grandfather Frost Day.

Yodeling Yule

An old custom of the Austrian Tyrol is the Christmas yodel. Traditionally, the Yuletide yodel—a song without words — may be improvised, or it may be based on the tune of a familiar carol.

For Feasting

Traditional Christmas treat in Spain is a sweet pastry called "dulces de almendra." The ingredients are sugar, flour, egg white and almonds.

CARDS WERE GENERAL

Most of the popular Christmas cards of the later 19th century in Europe had no particular Christmas significance. There were some manger scenes and others of religious nature, but these were far outnumbered by landscapes, flowers, kittens, and similar subjects.

Christmas Greetings

To you and your family . . . may this be your happiest Christmas ever.

From the Management and Staff

MACLEODS *Your Family Shopping Centre*

PHONE 542-4020 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

GREETINGS

Here's wishing you the fulfillment of all your dreams for Christmas. Thank you for your patronage.

TWILIGHT BOWL

John, Ruby and Family

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Christmas Greetings

As we rejoice in the story of the first Christmas, may the happy spirit of the holiday light up your home with peace, good will. Thanks to all you wonderful people for your loyal trust and support.

Kelly's Pump Service Ltd.

Management and Staff

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

GREETINGS

Santa's on his way with a sleighful of merry wishes for you, plus a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DRS. I. G. WAUGH and T. EUSTACE

AND STAFF

PHONE 542-3305 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Second Section

THE WESTERN
REVIEW

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA
CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT

A Glance Back at the Year in Photos

"Miles for Millions" marchers are shown in the top left panel; centre, a distinguished visitor to the community Lieutenant Governor J. W. Grant MacEwan; top right, boys from St. John's School pack their canoes to continue the journey upstream to Rocky Mountain House; Circus Day gave many youngsters an opportunity of viewing a "ponderous pachyderm" at close range; centre, is a view of forest fire fighting activity in the area in May; at right, the gymkhana rally day activities; lower right, part of the big parade on rodeo day; crowning of Carnival Queen, far left; and then Bob Sanders, the cross-country canoe traveller; 4-H members enjoyed another successful year throughout the district, right; anglers enjoyed a good summer, this big walleye was a prize catch from the Pembina; despite an unfavorable fall, most district farmers managed eventually to get crops off; lower right, the pool again was well patronized during the summer; and far right, visitors at the official opening of St. Anthony's addition.

Merry Christmas

The best of hopes are extended to you for a warm, happy holiday with friends you hold near and dear. And it is time to thank you for your loyal patronage.

STEDMANS

From the Management and Staff

PHONE 542-3279 DRAYTON VALLEY

May a happy and a peaceful Yule be yours. And many thanks!

Merry Christmas

DAIRY KING

The Management and Staff
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

We would like to extend our warmest holiday greetings to our friends. Thank you, Merry Chistmas.

We wish you a Merry Christmas

HUSKY TRADERS

PHONE 542-4554 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

A Look At The Western Review Files

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

JUNE 19

Town Council has announced plans to proceed with a new residential development on land purchased from J. R. MacKenzie on the north edge of town....A moose antler embedded in the trunk of a poplar tree has been found near Lodgepole....Annual awards night was held this week at St. Anthony's School....Funeral services were held June 15th for Mr. Francis Law.... Members of the Hospital Auxiliary wound-up the year's events with a supper in the Cardium Room Thursday....Rev. Ramona Underwood, on leave from missionary work in Korea, was a town visitor this week.

JUNE 26

The "Crafts of Alberta" trailer will visit here July 6th....Officers of the Drayton Valley O.O.R.P. were installed recently....A new building has been opened by the John Deere Agency at Evansburg....Golden Spur Gymkhana Club is preparing for a big July 1st Gymkhana and Pembina River Riders for their Dominion Jackpot on June 29th...Alder Flats Beef Club Achievement day was held June 14th.

JULY 3

Allan Sulatycky of Whitecourt won the Rocky Mountain seat for the Liberal party in last Tuesday's federal election....Marilyn Rasmussen of the Drayton Valley club showed the Grand Champion Calf in the combined achievement day of Tomahawk, Lobstick and Drayton Valley 4-H clubs Tuesday....Tomahawk sports and parade on July 1st was again a highly successful event ....A crop saving general rainfall fell over the area during the weekend....Drayton Valley Junior High awards night was held Thursday.... Drayton Valley Air Cadets left at the weekend for two weeks at summer camp at Penhold.

JULY 10

A post office was established at the Brazeau Dam on July 2nd....A big parade opened the Entwistle sports day July 1st....A memorial service for James Nevin Ross was held at Alder Flats June 26th...Don Sanderlin, competing in the U.S. International Skeet Championships at San Antonio, Texas, was the only one of 60 marksmen to make a perfect score of 100 birds on the opening day of the competition....Funeral services were held at Williams Lake, B.C., for Orvin Combs, 22, formerly of Rocky Rapids, who was killed in an automobile accident June 28th. He won wide recognition as an amateur boxer while a member of the Pembina Boxing Club.

JULY 17

Ray Wickens, production superintendent for Mobil Oil at Drayton Valley, has been appointed to a new post at Swift Current....A highway accident claimed the life of Stanley McLean of Seba Beach....Official opening of the Drayton Valley Tastee-Freez will be held July 20th.... The annual White Water Canoe Race will be held this weekend.

JULY 24

A new bylaw to regulate hours of business places has been passed by Town Council.... Flin Flon paddlers Norm Crerar and Gib McEachern won the White Water race....Swimmers of the Drayton Valley Neptune Club won the successful meet held here Saturday....Pastor Dale Mohr has accepted the call to Drayton Valley and Tomahawk Lutheran Churches....Annual David Thompson Cavalcade will be held August 3rd...The nation-wide postal strike is in its second week with no indication of an early settlement.

JULY 31

A hearing was held in the Department of Municipal Affairs in Edmonton Monday on the bid by Stony Plain M.D. and Leduc County for annexation of land in I.D.'s 77 and 78. A brief has been presented by a Drayton Valley and area group requesting the formation of a new municipal unit in the area...A check this week much revealed the "March for Millions" held this spring earned a total of $6138.88....Mr. and Mrs. E. Proehl have sold their sport shop at Lodgepole and are moving to Langley, B.C.

AUGUST 14

Mayor R. Findlay announced his resignation this week....Bill Kovacs of Drayton Valley topped a field of 14 to win the Alberta "Class C" stock car trophy at the Red Deer race meet.... Carson and Barnes Circus will play here August 24th....A big parade will kick-off events of next weekend's western rodeo and gymkhana.

AUGUST 21

Ten area clubs took part in a successful gymkhana rally here last weekend....Sunny skies and warm weather favored those who attended the amateur rodeo and gymkhana rally over the weekend. Valorie Guyon won the Rodeo Queen Contest....Saturday's parade drew many favorable comments from the large crowd of spectators....Opening of the new Drayton Valley I.G.A. will take place August 29th.

AUGUST 28

An 18-year old Wainwright girl, Linda Millar, died in an accident on Highway 57 north of Drayton Valley last Saturday....Ratepayers of the three divisions of I.D. 77 have turned out in large numbers for meetings that have endorsed a proposal for self-government as an alternative to annexation by Stony Plain M.D. or the County of Leduc....Lindale 4-H Swine Club held its Achievement Day August 24th....The elephant herd was a major attraction for early risers on hand for the day-break arrival of Carson and Barnes Circus Saturday morning.

SEPTEMBER 4

The Annual Flower Show sponsored by the Drayton Valley Women's Institute was held Tuesday in the Elks Hall and attracted a large number of entries and many visitors to view the attractive display of garden blooms....Doyle Booth of Breton was among the 1968 Junior Citizens named by Calgary Power this week....Bruce Gossel won the tennis tournament held last weekend.

CONTINUED

A Merry Christmas

Hoping you will have an old-fashioned holiday with all its joy, contentment, peace... and sending you heartiest thanks!

Imperial Oil Agent

M. J. McMAHON

Management and Staff

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

A Blessed Christmas

The inspiration of that Holy Night lives anew. May all its spiritual blessings be yours, at this Christmastide.

DRAYTON HARDWARE

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

Silent Night,

Holy Night

In the awesome stillness of that Holy Night, the Christ Child was born. May the true meaning of Christmas fill your heart and home!

DRAYTON KWIK KLEEN LTD.

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Here's hoping that Santa brings lots of good things your way! Thank you.

Merry Christmas

From The Management and Staff

ANCHOR CONSTRUCTION LTD.

PHONE 542-3344 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Merry Christmas

The stockings are hung by the chimney with care . . . there's an air of breathless expectation as the children eagerly listen for the sound of Santa's sleigh bells. As this glad spirit of Christmas spreads through every home, we wish for you and your family all the joys of giving and receiving, all the true blessings of the season.
May your holiday be rich in good health and good cheer. To everyone, sincerest "Merry Christmas" greetings . . . and "Thank You".

COIN ELECTRIC SERVICES LTD.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

PHONE 542-3912 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

A Look At The Western Review Files

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

SEPTEMBER 11
Robert Sanders of New York City arrived here Sunday on his way by boat from coast to coast ....M.P. Allen Sulatycky was a town visitor this week....Mr. and Mrs. James Smith of Rocky Rapids were honored Wednesday on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary....Twenty-six boys from St. John's School passed through here Monday on their was to Rocky Mountain House by canoe.

SEPTEMBER 18
Mayor Henry Shimbashi turned the sod Monday to start construction on the first house in the new sub-division....Borys Koba won the Tennis Club championship last week....Graduation exercises were held at Evansburg High School September 7th....Next Sunday is "football day" here with three games scheduled.

SEPTEMBER 25
Deputy Mayor Henry Shimbashi was elected mayor by acclamation on Nomination Day September 18th....Graduation exercises were held at Frank Maddock High School Friday....Mr. and Mrs. August Myck of Tomahawk were honored Saturday on the occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary....The old Drayton Valley Legion Hall has been sold and moved to Stony Plain....John Oliver will open a new welding shop in Entwistle September 28th....Louis Lambert won the top prize of $500 in the Lions Bingo Friday.

OCTOBER 2
A Ministerial Order has been passed authorizing the establishment of Stony Plain County and the annexation of L.I.D. 77 as a part of the new unit....Premier E.C. Manning has announced his intention of retiring from leadership of the Social Credit party....Plans are being made by the Lions Club for a new rodeo grounds in the West Valley Park....Improved weather at the weekend raised hopes that harvesting may resume...Old timers of the Carnwood area were honored at a gathering in the hall Wednesday...Canadian Legion Zone Rally was held in Drayton Valley Sunday....Three vehicles were involved in an accident at a controlled intersection in Drayton Valley Tuesday morning.

OCTOBER 9
Activities of the riding season were brought to a close with the awarding of trophies at the Lariat Club banquet Friday....Carnwood Cloth Cutters 4-H Club held its reorganization meeting recently....Five calves on test at Otto Guze's farm have shown a 3 to 1 gain over a 40 day period....Janine LaBranche, Linda Frank, Linda Dusterhoft and Maureen Fraser received O.O.R.P. academic awards last week.

OCTOBER 16
A rear-end collision on Highway 57 north of Drayton Valley Tuesday claimed the life of Harrison John Church, 62....A donation by Thomas Campbell of Tomahawk will help the Canadian Legion complete the club room of the new building....An early curling start is anticipated and ice should be in by October 26th....Drayton Valley Elks Lodge will host the Provincial executive meeting here on October 27th.

OCTOBER 23
Marvin Helm and Tom Johnson were elected to Town Council in last Wednesday's voting....Skating started in the Centennial Arena on October 22nd, the earliest start to date....John Braybrook was the high school winner of a Rotary trip to Lethbridge....The Tomahawk Hall was filled Friday for the 4-H Beef and Clothing Club's Awards Night....Rotary Community Auction held recently raised $800 for community projects ....Bill Johanneson has taken over from Maurice McCullagh as C.O. of the Air Cadet Squadron.

OCTOBER 30
Drayton Valley 4-H Beef Club wound-up the season with an Award Night Friday....A new 4-H Beef Club has been organized at Moon Lake ....Zane Bruner of Evansburg won second place in the provincial junior 4-H plot competition...St. Albert runners captured the major share of awards in the school zone meeting here....Air Cadet Wayne Selin received his wings after qualifying for a private pilots' license during the summer.

NOVEMBER 6
Ivan Vowk was elected by acclamation in Division 7 and elections will be held for councillors in the other six divisions of the new County of Stony Plain....Mr. Adolf Domke, 82, a Tomahawk area oldtimer passed away October 31st. ....Breton 4-H Multi Club Awards Night was held Saturday, October 26th....Pembina River Riders ended the season with an awards night October 25th....A mortgage burning ceremony was held at the Church of God this week.

NOVEMBER 13
Two district youths, Lucas Piskunowicz of Burtonsville and Larry Rosadiuk of Evansburg will be among 14 Albertans attending National 4-H Week in Eastern Canada this month....Harvey Helm and his wife Elaine of St. Francis were killed in an accident on Highway 57 near the Buck Creek corner Friday evening....Annual banquet and awards night of the Entwistle Clothing Club, Lobstick Beef Club and Pembina Field Crops Club was held at Evansburg Friday.

NOVEMBER 20
New officers of the Drayton Valley Elks Lodge, headed by Exhalted Ruler Earl Kelly, were installed in office Friday....John Panek heads the slate of new officers installed by the Evansburg Kinmen's Club....Dr. Walter Buck, M.L.A., a contestant in the Socred leadership race, visited Drayton Valley Monday....11th anniversary of the United Church will be observed Sunday, November 24th....Town Council has taken over operation of the Rotary Park.

NOVEMBER 27
Lester Miller, 73, a long-time resident passed away Sunday....Drayton Valley Lions presented the C.N.I.B. with a cheque for $737 raised in a canvass last fall....Ray Reierson, a Social Credit leadership candidate, was a town visitor last Tuesday....Funeral services were held November 22nd for Mr. Gordon Kynock, a long-time resident of the district....A danceathon at Evansburg last weekend raised $930 to go toward a covered stadium.

DECEMBER 4
Official opening of the St. Anthony's School addition took place Tuesday, November 26th....Councillors for the new County of Stony Plain were elected last Saturday....Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thompson of Drayton Valley were honored Wednesday on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary....Mr. Alex Harlin has taken over as manager of the Drayton Valley Hotel....Patricia Jenkins has been named president of the Legion Auxiliary....Dave's Restaurant has opened in the location of the former Jade Cafe....The E & O Sewing Basket opens this week.

DECEMBER 11
A large crowd in the Cardium Room enjoyed an address by Lieutenant Governor J. W. Grant MacEwan last Wednesday...The Dept. of Highways has informed Town Council that there is little liklihood of improvements to Highway 57 in the near future...About 1200 town and area children enjoyed free movies Saturday as guests of Drayton Valley businessmen...Funeral service for Arthur Bryant of Keephills was held Monday...Annual awards night of Sundance 4-H Club was held November 16th...F.M.H.S. Warriors and the cheer leading squad were both victorious in a weekend tournament at Warburg.

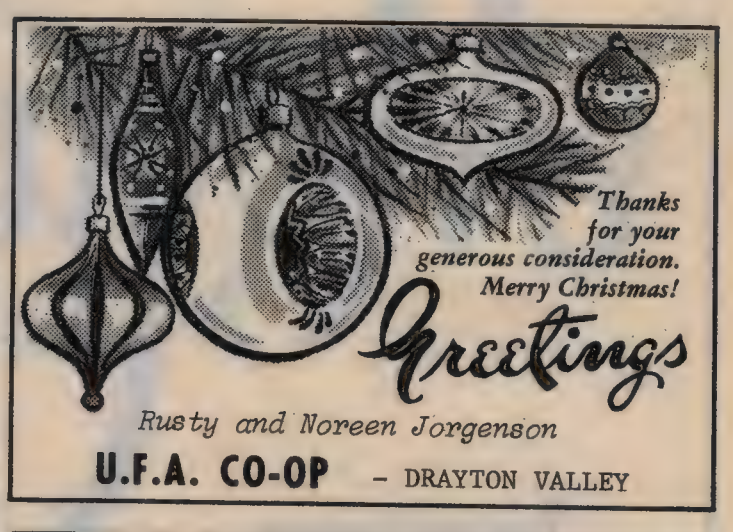
December 24, 1223

St. Francis of Assisi set up the first creche or crib on Christmas Eve, 1223, in the mountain village of Grecchio, Italy.

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!

We'd like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Thanks for your patronage!

Drayton Valley Second Hand Store
Phone 542-3649 - Drayton Valley, Alberta



Thanks for your generous consideration. Merry Christmas!

Greetings

Rusty and Noreen Jorgenson
U.F.A. CO-OP - DRAYTON VALLEY

Rejoice

True blessings of Christmas joyfully arise from that first wondrous Holy Night. May the spiritual glories of the season be yours.

PANKY'S ENTERPRISES LTD.
The Management and Staff
PHONES
894-3541 542-4622 542-3292
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Merry Christmas

Time for us to speed very warm wishes for the Yuletide Holiday to you. May your day be bright with joy and merriment shared with your loved ones. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas!

From The Management and Staff of
DUTCH'S BEAUTY SALON
PHONE 542-3106 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Glad Tidings

At Christmas, greetings and wishes for the gift of happiness during the holiday season. Thanks for the past patronage!

WARBURG SEED CLEANING CO-OP LTD.
Ben Grohn, Manager
WARBURG, ALBERTA

ACTING OUT THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY, youngsters play the role of angels in the Christmas pageant at St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Traditional wherever the holiday is celebrated, the Christmas pageant has history in religious drama. Photo by Henle — Photo Researchers; from editors of Encyclopedia Americana.

Pageant Has History In Medieval Dramas

As young actors and actresses of this community rehearse their roles for their special Christmas play or pageant, they take part in a custom treasured through the ages.

Since the Christmas story first was told, mankind has sought and found countless ways to create it again and anew, in song and story, in art and drama. The modern Christmas pageant, a feature of church observances in communities near and far, may well trace its history to early religious dramas — the mystery, miracle and morality plays of the Middle Ages.

Where did church drama actually begin? One possible source is the tradition of the Christmas crib or manger scene, but scholarly research indicates that medieval religious drama probably had other, separate origins, according to the editors of Encyclopedia Americana.

Easter Plays Came First

Representations of the manger scene began with the use of doll figures, and history offers no evidence that people were ever substituted for the dolls. Living "actors" did, however, play a part in some early elaborations of church rituals.

In the 10th century, special chants written to accompany church music on festival occasions began to take the form of simple dialogues. These were little more than dramatic inserts in the church services, but here, researchers believe, religious plays had their start.

Easter dialogues and playlets probably came first, with Christmas plays developing as a natural result. Other religious dramas or mystery plays soon followed, until there were series or cycles of plays devoted to telling the entire story of the Scriptures.

Covered Many Subjects

Mystery cycles of the 16th century included as many as 40 dramas, which might be presented over a period of several days. The cycles developed in virtually every European country.

Typical plays dealt with such subjects as "The Creation of the World and the Fall of the Angels," "Noah and the Flood," "The Annunciation," "The Passion of Christ," "The Death of Pilate," "The Resurrection and Ascension," "The Harrowing of Hell and the Coming of Antichrist."

Along with the mystery cycles were miracle and morality plays. Miracle plays recounted the miracles of the saints, while the moralities presented allegorical messages of moral instruction, with characters personifying, for instance, Vice, the Devil or specific vices such as Gluttony, Pride, Anger, Hatred.

Source of Song

Among the well-loved Christmas hymns is "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." The words to this one were written by a Unitarian minister of Weston, Mass., named Edmund H. Sears. Time? Just about a hundred years ago, says the Book of Knowledge.

One melody for this hymn was composed by a Detroit journalist and editor; another melody was adapted from an old British folk tune by a composer better known for his long string of light-hearted operetta hits. This was Sir Arthur Sullivan, of the team of Gilbert and Sullivan.

HE PROTECTED ROBBERS

Legends about St. Nicholas are many, but they all relate in some way to his reputation for generosity. Pawnbrokers took him for their patron, and robbers looked to him as their protector. In the Middle Ages, robbers were sometimes called Knights or Clerks of St. Nicholas, says the New Book of Knowledge.

A Christmas Prayer

May the beautiful meaning of Christmas ... living through the ages to inspire men everywhere... continue to live in your own heart and mind. And may your Christmas be filled with joy.

From The Management and Staff

DRAYTON TIRE SALES & SERVICE LTD.

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Peace

To the gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh, wise men of the world offer the Child their gift of love, insuring peace for all mankind.

The Management and Staff of

AMBASSADOR MOTEL

wish you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

PHONE 542-3772 or 542-3239 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

It's Christmas!

It's that time of year when Santa's gifts are given out. And when best wishes for a happy holiday are given out to one and all.

Swanee's Well Servicing Ltd.

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all good sports, glad greetings.
Here's hoping you'll have a great Christmas.
And for your patronage, our warm thanks.

AL'S SPORTS SHOP

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

CHRISTMAS Message

ON PASSING UP CHRISTMAS

Some years ago this writer saw the motion picture "Anna and the King of Siam" and one of the incidents in the show stamped itself indelibly on my memory. It was the event in which the mother of the crown prince denounced Anna for her failure. All the hopes of the mother's life had been staked upon the possibility that Anna might give the crown prince a new understanding of life and might touch his heart with a new devotion. But, Anna had been so occupied doing a multitude of things and teaching so many, many people that she found no time for special thought for the one who some day would be king. So: doing good she passed up the best. Is not this too often true in your life and mine? We are pulled here and there by a multitude of requests, sapping our energies without reserve, only to find ourselves completely fagged out. Are we so busy with the good that we are passing up the best? Is not this the case with most of us specially at Christmas?

St. Matthews Gospel tells us that wise men arrived in Jerusalem seeking one who had been born to be king. They came to Herod representative of Rome with their question: Where is He that is born king of the Jews? And Herod - the wily one he was - must have thought that if there is a king born to these people their leaders must know; and so he summoned the chief priests, the officers of Israel and the pharisees together and put the question to them. Sure enough they knew the answer and showed him the writing "And thou Bethlehem...for out of Thee shall come a governor who shall rule my people Israel." They thus directed the wise men to the king but they did not make the journey themselves. They passed up Christmas. Why? precisely because they were too preoccupied with their routine work and would not bother to take time to go to Bethlehem. But the wise men went on their directed way, found the Babe Jesus and gave their gifts.

What about us in 1968 at Christmas time? Does Christmas thrill you now? Do you catch the eagerness of it? Is there the thrill of a new search or is it just an old, old story? I think that is the tragedy of Christmas today because for the most of us there is no great hope. We know what will happen. Stores are full and we are spending money. Beautiful bundles are being wrapped up. We will have our happy parties. Fathers and mothers will work themselves sick for their children and all will have a wonderful time. But nothing will happen except a lot of bills will have to be paid. There will be no fulfilment of the Angel's promise of peace in the world or within us. And yet, something does happen at Christmas! Something will happen at Christmas! All around the world wise men are seeking as men have never sought before and asking the question: Where is the Prince of Peace? Where can we find Him? We of the Christian Church can tell them the Babe of Bethlehem is the One for whom you seek. And we can give them directions and wise men will find him and give their gifts, but guiding others will we be too busy with the good things of life that we pass up the best? Will we go to Bethlehem ourselves? Will we find the Christ Child who is our peace? Will we pass up Christmas?

Rev. E. Martin.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS

Once again the time has come to convey "Seasons Greetings" to all our friends and newspaper readers. May the Holiday Season bring "Peace and good will among men" in our community and in every corner of the globe.

True, it is another Christmas but still the same Christ and the same Christmas message. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." Jn. 1:14 R.S.V.

The Christmas message is no mystery-It is a miracle. The Word becoming flesh and dwelling amongst men. God's love gift to the world. According to the scriptures the joy of Christmas was found in worship. In the meaning and purpose of this little Bethlehem babe entering a dark world of sin and despair. Those sitting in darkness, saw a great light. Listen to the words of a wise old man called Simeon as he spoke to Mary, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;" Lu. 2:34.

Our world needs to celebrate another Christmas. To rediscover the joy of Christmas through worship. Experience the purpose and plan which the coming of our Lord can have upon our lives as we respond to the gospel message. Someone once said, "God cares nothing for costly buildings, and everything for loving hearts." God dwells not in temples made by hands but in the hearts and lives of His people. We find the church today looking for better methods but God is looking for better men. Christ staked His kingdom not on methods but men. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us --- can He dwell in you? Col. 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Let us find the Peace and Joy of this another Christmas in the worship of Christ the one who loved us and gave His life for us.

Wishing you one and all a very Merry Christmas and the Lord's blessing upon you for the coming year.

Rev. Donald Snell

"MELE KALIKIMAKA"

Wishing "Mele Kalikimaka" is the traditional way to say, "Merry Christmas" in Hawaiian.

To Greet You at Christmas

With fond hopes that all your holiday dreams come true, we send you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

To Our Good Friends and Acquaintances

"THE YURCHAKS"

May songs of joy enrich your life. Much thanks!

DRAYTON VALLEY HOTEL

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

We hope that Santa is bringing good things your way. Thank you for your loyal patronage.

McMILLIAN AUTO BODY

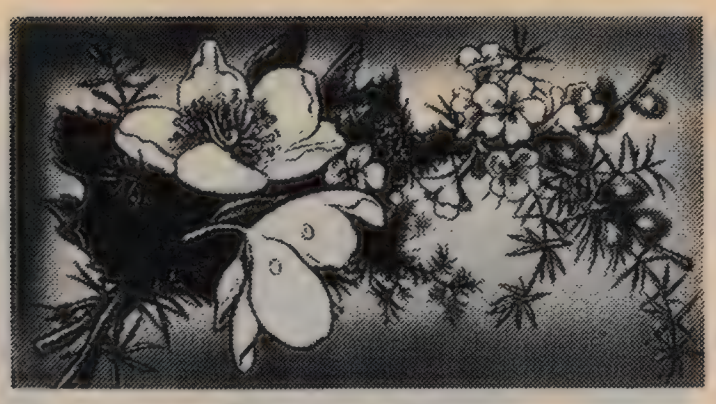
Jary Traption, Management and Staff

PHONE 542-4170 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

In this, the most festive season of the year, we express the sincere wish that your Christmas may be the picture of great joy and glad tidings. Many thanks for your loyal patronage!

NORTHERN VIDEO ELECTRONICS LTD.

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA



A Joyous Christmas

Take these flowers, gemm'd with dew-drops.
As a loving gift from me:
May thy heart reflect their brightness
And thy Christmas joyous be!

Flowers Speak Language of Love In Modern or Victorian Era

Like holly, ivy and mistletoe, flowers share in the legend and lore of Christmas. In terms of the Victorian era, the floral legend is an especially meaningful one.

A Victorian lady who received a bouquet from her admirer could either smell it or read it as if it were a letter. Often, it was a letter.

Young engaged couples, strictly chaperoned, found a way to communicate words of affection via flowers. Each flower had a special meaning.

Flowers in sequence could be used to spell out a fervent pledge of love. To help in composing — and translating — these messages, there were numerous tiny dictionaries listing flowers and their meanings.

The flowering honeysuckle, for instance, spoke of "bonds of love." A red rosebud told a lady that she was "pure and lovely." Red double pink meant "woman's love." And heliotrope carried a bold message, "I love you."

This Victorian language of flowers greatly influenced the design of Christmas cards of the time — witness the card illustrated here, from the Norcross Historical Collection of antique cards.

The lush summer blooms are typical of the Victorian admiration of flowers, regardless of the season.

Though sentiments may be expressed differently, flowers still bloom on modern Christmas cards. A current card offers one example. Poinsettias flower on a background of mistletoe, and the message reads, "Just for you, honey, all my love at Christmas."

Stocking Is Just Legend?

Did a spinster hang up the first Christmas stocking? Legend says yes, but history says no — or at most, "Maybe."

St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop, secretly gave gifts of gold for the dowries of poor spinsters. His method was to toss the gold down a chimney by night, at Christmas.

On one occasion, so legend says, the gift landed in a stocking, hung by the fireplace to dry.

History casts a dubious eye on this "origin" of the Christmas stocking custom. The spinster probably didn't have a stocking — not in the fourth century.

Knitted form-fitting hosiery was unknown until the thirteenth century. Earlier, people wrapped cloth or rags around their feet as substitute for modern stockings.

History makes one concession to the legend tellers. Paintings from Pompeii show that early Romans did wear some form of stockings, even before the birth of Christ.

Cities Put Up Evergreens

Comes Christmas, and cities everywhere renew the tradition of setting up a community Christmas tree — a custom which began early in this century.

In 1909, citizens of Pasadena, Calif., decorated an evergreen on Mount Wilson as the tree of the city.

The year 1912 saw community Christmas trees erected in Madison Square, New York, N.Y., and on the Common in Boston, Mass. Independence Square in Philadelphia, Pa., showed off its first community tree in 1914.

President Calvin Coolidge inaugurated the custom of a national community Christmas tree in Washington, D.C., when he was presented with a large evergreen by the University of Vermont, in 1923.

Merry Christmas
One of the special pleasures of Christmas is the opportunity to greet one's friends and customers — with appreciation of our cordial relations.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (DV) LTD.
"We Serve Canada's Oil Industry
PHONE 542-3935 - DRAYTON VALLEY

the Spirit of Christmas

May the light of love and understanding that bathed the world on the eve of His Birth shine upon you and kindle your heart with everlasting joy. Let us rejoice as we cherish the blessings of this holy season.

The Members Of Town Council And Town Staff
Town of Drayton Valley
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Greetings with every good wish for a beautiful Christmas! And may we express our sincere joy in serving you. Your patronage is appreciated.

Edith's Beauty Shoppe
From the Management and Staff
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Pretty Gift Wrappings Can Be Saved

Cardboard Castle Is Easy to Make for Holiday Fun

"Too pretty to throw away."

On Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, as beautifully-wrapped packages are opened, this remark is likely to be often repeated. Though the gift wrappings do indeed seem "too pretty to throw away," they must usually be consigned to the wastebasket. After all, what can be done with used gift wraps, once Christmas is over?

One answer might be: build a castle!

Save the most beautiful and colorful of the gift wrappings, find some laundry cardboards, follow a simple plan — and the result is a cardboard castle.

Suggested by a manufacturer of gift wrapping papers, this castle-building plan might be a Christmas-afternoon project for the children. After the first gifts-exchange excitement is over, youngsters may appreciate a quiet pastime, and the cardboard castle offers an extra advantage in that it's as much fun to take apart as it is to build. The castle can be assembled and reassembled many times.

Although the plan is simple, adult guidance may be required — or at least, the adults can pretend that it is, so they can get in on the fun.

Scissors, a ruler and rubber cement are the only equipment required, in addition to the gift wraps and cardboards.

Begin by cutting 24 pieces of cardboard, each five inches by seven inches. Cement gift wraps to each side and trim the edges.

To make Type "A" cards, cut one and one-quarter inch slits in 22 of the cards. Each card should have six slits, and the slits should be placed as follows: one slit on each five-inch side of the card, at the center or two and one-half inches from the outer edge; two slits on each seven-inch side of the card, with each such slit placed one and a quarter inches from the outer edge.

For the remaining two Type "B" cards, the slits can be omitted on the five-inch side. Two slits should be cut as described on one seven-inch side of the card. On the other seven-inch side, the slits should be diagonal — placed two and a quarter inches from the outer edge and cut on a slant to two and one-eighth inch depth.

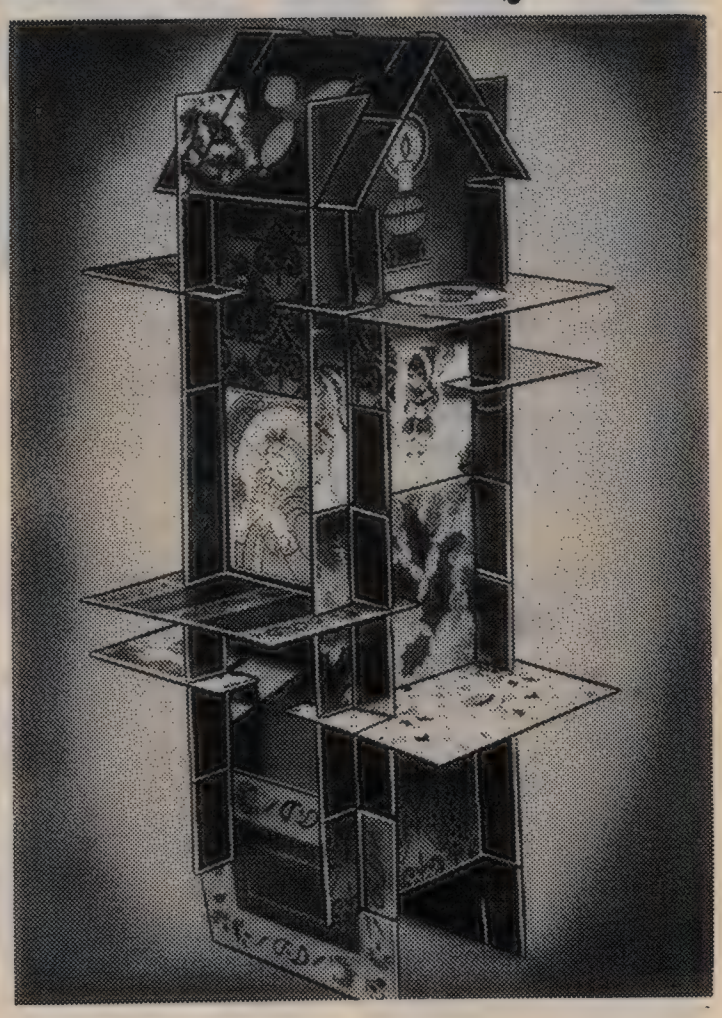
Assemble the castle by joining Type "A" cards at right angles, alternating pairs. At intervals, insert cards horizontally for an interesting, balconied effect.

Reserve two Type "A" cards for roof.

Use Type "B" cards at top of castle, where the slanted notches will receive the Type "A" roof pieces.

See illustrations accompanying this article, for sketched plan, and photograph of completed castle.

SKETCHES SHOW HOW TO PREPARE cardboards, covered with gift wraps, for building a cardboard castle. Follow measurements, cutting slits wherever dotted lines appear. Join Type "A" cards at right angles, occasionally inserting cards horizontally. Type "B" cards go at top of castle, where slanted notches hold two "A" cards to form roof. Suggested by the Norcross Design Studio.

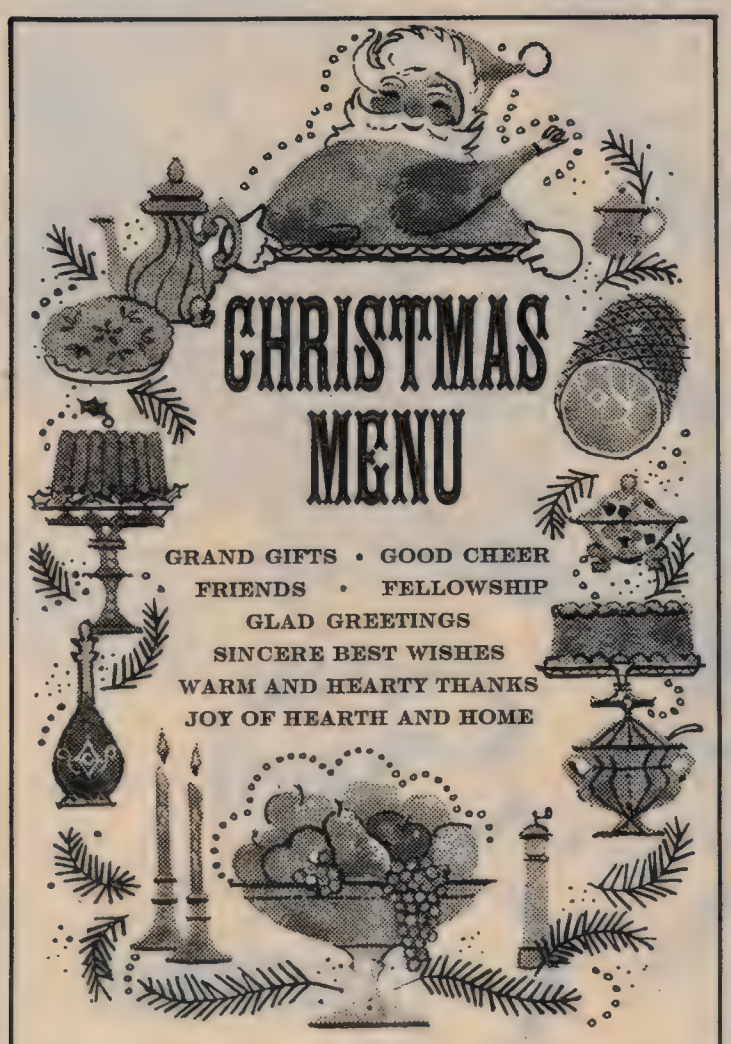


CARDBOARD CASTLE, MERRILY COLORFUL, GROWS from left-over Christmas gift wraps and laundry cardboards. Castle, pictured above, can be built from five-by-seven inch pieces of cardboard, to which gift wraps have been rubber-cemented. For directions, see sketches at upper left. Photo courtesy Norcross Design Studio.

In Tudor Times . . .

In England during Tudor times, Christmas celebrations began on All Saints' Day, November 1, and continued until Candlemas, on February 2. "The Lord of Misrule" acted as master of ceremonies at the Yuletide festivities.

Much of the music for all this merrymaking was extemporaneous. Many songs were passed on by word of mouth from generation to generation — songs such as "The Boar's Head Carol," referring to the "boar" or pig which was traditional at the Yule feast, and "The First Nowell."



Once again, it's that wonderful time of year when spirits soar and great merriment reigns. We'd like to take this opportunity to serve all our customers with the wish for a truly happy holiday season. And thank you, most sincerely, for your patronage.

DAVE'S RESTAURANT

DAVE CHOW

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

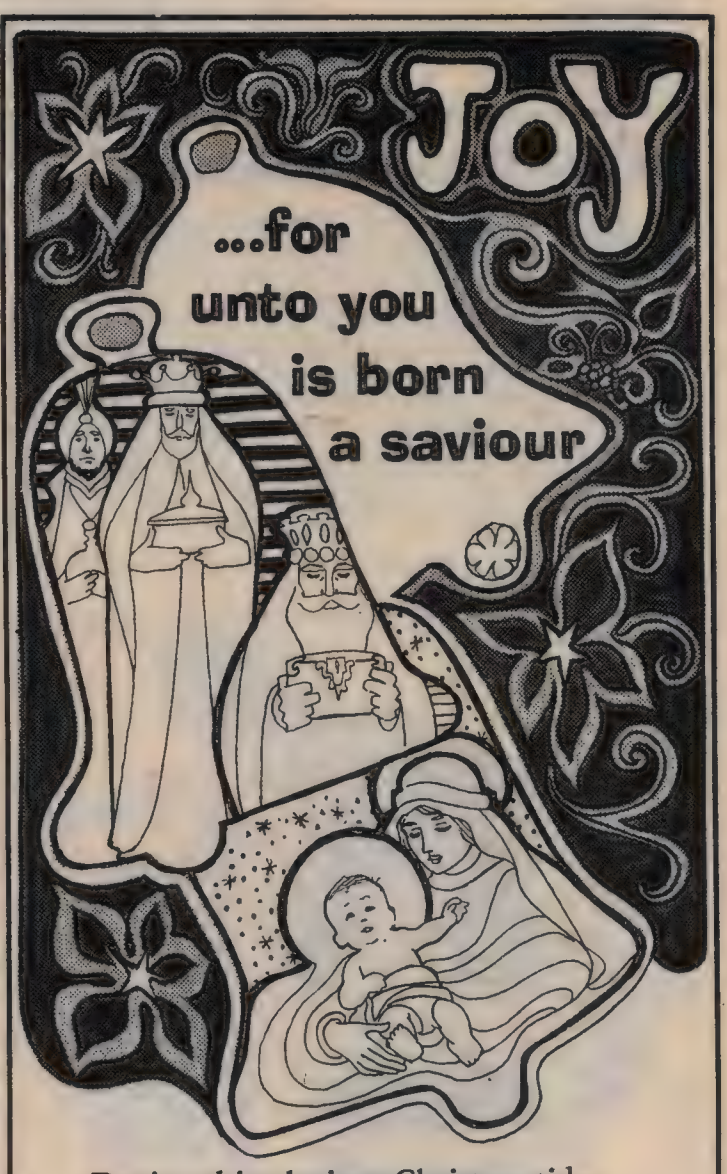
Old-Fashioned Greetings

Hearty greetings are sent your way, and so are heartiest thanks!

Mar Nel's Ladies Wear

Management and Staff

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.



During this glorious Christmastide, people far and near reverently celebrate His birth. Let the true spirit of the season abide throughout the land, and to you and yours, a glad Christmas.

Big Country Machinery Ltd.

From the Management and Staff

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

"Silent Night, Holy Night . . . Christ the Savior Is Born!"

Third Section

THE WESTERN REVIEW

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA
CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT

The Adoration of the Magi

The Flight Into Egypt

Both prints are from a 15th century illuminated manuscript, "Hours of the Virgin," now in the Pierpoint Morgan Library, New York.

Art, Too, Shows 'Illumination' To Light Up Christmas Scene

By ANNA MANG

Illumination.

The very word seems to belong to Christmas, the season of light. Like the star that guided the wise men, Christmas illuminates the spirit of man.

In an artistic sense, illumination has another meaning that is also linked to Christmas: The decoration of books and manuscripts with colorful illustrations, initial letters and borders, "lit" by gold or, occasionally, silver.

Like all the arts, the ancient art of illumination was often employed by man in his efforts to capture some portion of the wonder of Christmas, to retell and to picture the story of the Nativity and related events.

"The Annunciation," "The Nativity," "The Adoration of the Magi," "The Flight into Egypt" — these and other scenes from the well-loved Christmas story appear again and again in the hand-lettered, individually-illustrated books known as illuminated manuscripts.

* * *

When It Began

In the early Christian era, illuminated manuscripts were generally the products of monasteries and cathedral schools. The first examples of illumination appeared, however, centuries before the birth of Christ.

The Egyptian "Books of the Dead," manuscripts intended for tomb burial to serve as guides for the deceased in the afterworld, offer examples of gold-lit vignettes dating back to 1350 B.C.

These "books," written on papyrus scrolls, envisioned afterlife as a continuation of life on earth. People and animals were pictured, along with decorative lettering showing swirls of gold and sometimes silver.

* * *

To Spread Learning

The coming of Christianity brought a continuing concern with religious subjects as the text for illuminated manuscripts. Monasteries of Egypt and Syria were early dedicated to the creation of art, the development of crafts, the spread of learning.

In the Western world, these aims gained impetus with the founding of the Benedictine monasteries in the sixth century A.D. Artists and craftsmen worked devotedly to preserve sacred texts through their hand-copied, hand-illustrated, elaborately-bound vellum manuscripts.

Just as the celebration of Christmas gathered together many customs and rituals of earlier holidays, so too the monastery artists drew upon techniques evolved by pre-Christian craftsmen.

Influence of classic Greek and Roman style is evident in the early illuminated manuscripts of the Christian era. This gradually gave way to the decorative, abstract Byzantine style.

With the approach of the Renaissance, more natural, realistic techniques came into use, in illumination as in other forms of art.

BEST WISHES THIS CHRISTMAS

It's the season of joy and good cheer . . . time to wish you a most merry Christmas, and to extend hearty thanks.

VALLEY VALET

The Management and Staff
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

Merry Christmas to All!

Like the sparkling beauty of a snowy landscape, hearts are filled with peace and good will. Over the mountains, through the woods or wherever you'll be at Christmas, we wish you a merry one and sincere "Thanks" for your continued support.

DONALD McKENZIE MENS WEAR LTD.

PHONE 542-3125 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We're taking this opportunity to say "Hello" and to thank our customers for their patronage. Have a merry Christmas!

D.V. Ford & Mercury Sales Ltd.

Management and Staff

PHONE 542-4727 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Yule Customs Reveal Many Variations

Cherished memories, heartfelt joys, children's laughter — everywhere, these mean Christmas.

The spirit of Christmas knows no boundaries. It lives in the hearts of men in many lands. Though its message of joy is always the same, the legends and lore of the season are as varied as the peoples who celebrate the Holy Birth.

Customs of each country may be similar, yet marked by their own individual character.

* * *

In New Mexico

The Santa Domingo Indian pueblo, in New Mexico, performs a four-day-long sacred ritual dance in honor of the Christmas season.

It begins at two A.M. Christmas day. After midnight mass, the Indians gather inside the church. They are clad in colorful costumes, adorned with everything from fox tails to evergreen branches.

The dancers carry on their ceremonials until daylight. At dawn the Indians move to their sacred plaza in the center of the village, where they continue dancing throughout Christmas day.

On the second day the children dance, and the older members of the tribe take over for the third day. On the last day the entire pueblo joins in the day-long ceremonies.

* * *

In California

Communities as well as countries have their own special way of celebrating Christmas.

In Joshua Tree, Calif., this small community transforms itself into a replica of Bethlehem. The story of the first Christmas is re-enacted, with the main street serving as a giant stage.

* * *

In Newfoundland

Citizens of Newfoundland show their Christian ethics with the Christmas custom known as "Fishing for the Church." On this day huge quantities of fish are caught and brought by the parishioners of a village to the church, where they are sold. Proceeds of the sale go toward buying firewood for the curate.

In Czechoslovakia

It's customary among the Czechs to break off a cherry tree branch, at the beginning of Advent. The branch is placed in a pot of water in the kitchen and kept in the warm air.

At Christmas time, it's hoped, the twig will burst into bloom and make a festive decoration.

* * *

In Scandinavia

The Jultomten is a friendly gnome, who not only brings gifts to Scandinavian children but guards the household and farm as well. To keep him happy, the children give the cattle extra fodder and leave sheaves of grain for the birds on Christmas Eve.

* * *

In Turkey

A unique holiday tradition in Turkey requires the head of the church to throw a wooden cross into the Bosporus. On Christmas Day, three boys dive after it.

The finder takes the cross from house to house and receives in return food and gifts from those who are allowed to see the cross.

* * *

In Iceland

Since trees are scarce in Iceland, families must use their ingenuity in creating a Christmas tree. A pole with branches of greenery tied to it is the solution in many Icelandic homes. And the valuable real trees are saved for industrial use.

* * *

In Norway

The Norwegian Christmas traditionally starts six months before December 24th. The celebration itself lasts three weeks. The period is known as the Julafred, or the Peace of Christmas.

* * *

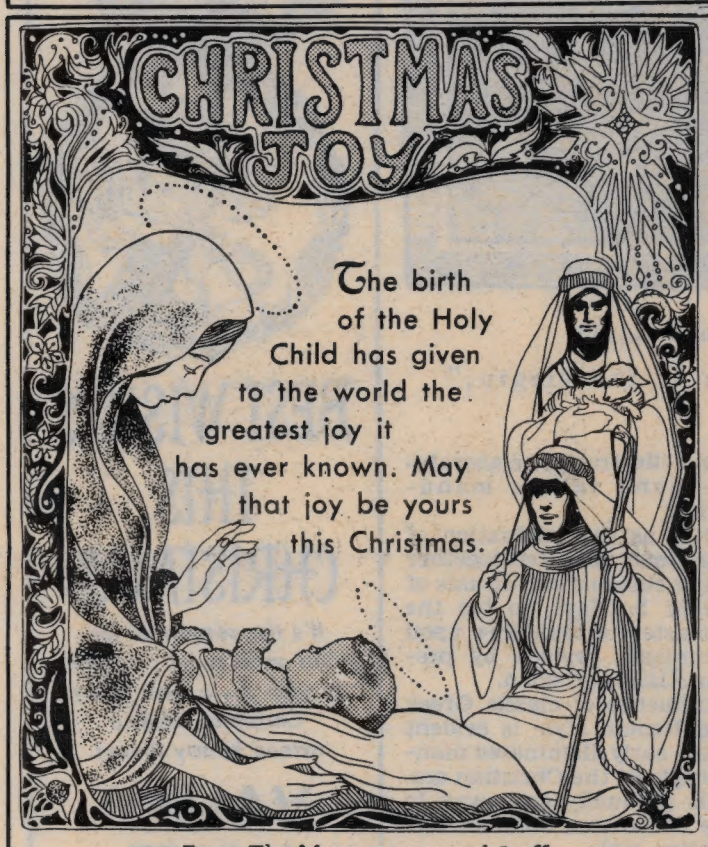
In Finland

Just before Christmas Day, families in Finland take a sauna bath. This is the traditional steam bath taken in a hut with a stone oven.

* * *

In France

Traditionally, adults in France do not exchange gifts until New Year's Day,


CHRISTMAS JOY
The birth of the Holy Child has given to the world the greatest joy it has ever known. May that joy be yours this Christmas.

From The Management and Staff

ADAM'S SHOE STORE

PHONE 542-3715 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

A Blessed Christmas
May you and your family enjoy a Christmas that is warm with happiness, and is truly blessed in every way. Many thanks for your support!

Micky Latosky and Family

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We wish to extend our warmest holiday greetings to all the wonderful people in our town who make day-to-day business a special pleasure. Heartfelt thanks for your loyal trust and support. Merry Christmas.

L. B. MOTORS LTD.

Management and Staff

PHONE 542-3022 - DRAYTON VALLEY

Everyone's singing out in merriment and joy, announcing to the world that it's Christmas! And it's our time to thank you, customers, for your patronage.

PHONE 542-4114

Derrick Supply Limited

BOX 895 — DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

CHEERS

We take this day to express fondest wishes, and a cheerful "Thank you."

Rex's Radio & TV Ltd.

Management and Staff

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

Across the Years, Music Reflects Holiday Joy, As Carolers Sing Traditional Songs of Christmas

66-Mat Page 27

"Carol, brothers, carol. Carol joyfully.

With the coming of Christmas, almost everyone accepts the injunction of the old song to "carol joyfully." From special church services to family gatherings, a "carol sing" is a traditional pleasure.

The custom of singing carols at holiday time is an ancient one — begun, perhaps, even before the first Christmas, at celebrations such as the Roman Saturnalia.

Modern interest in music, and in learning to play musical instruments, has given carol singing a healthy boost. In most homes, at least one member of the family can be depended on to provide instrumental accompaniment for carols — and the instrument may vary from the old favorite piano to the currently popular guitar.

Music in any form has long been especially beloved as a means of expressing Christmas joy. Early Christian believers were forced to worship in secret — and therefore, quietly. Then, in the fifth and sixth centuries, Christianity came out of the catacombs — and exultation for freedom of worship was expressed in the glad ringing of church bells.

Early hymns and carols, however, were in Latin. Carol singing in its modern form — in the common language of the country — probably originated in 1223, when St. Francis introduced the first realistic replica of the manger scene, in the little town of Greccio, Italy.

From this beginning, the practice of erecting a creche or crib soon became a Christmas tradition in many towns. Around the representation of the first Christmas, villagers gathered to marvel, pray and sing. Often, the creche was constructed in a churchyard or on a public street. Thus it was natural for the worshippers to stroll away from the devotional service — formal or informal — and continue singing the beloved carols as they made their way home.

This spontaneous action may well have led to the custom of going from place to place to sing carols. And the more music, the better, was the rule. Any musical instrument, however humble, was a welcome addition and accompaniment.

In later centuries, the "wassailing" or "gooding" expeditions helped the growth of caroling. Singers went from house to house, receiving treats as rewards for carols.

Even oppression could not put an end to carol singing. When the Puritans abolished Christmas observances in England, printed sheets of carols were bootlegged for a penny. And poets and musicians went right on composing carols, as they do today.

Why Pick Chimney? St. Nick Has Reasons

Why does Santa come down the chimney?

Of all the traditions connected with Santa, his unconventional mode of entry might seem the most puzzling. Surely the magical gift giver, who has the power to drive reindeer through the skies and who can cover the earth in a single night, could find an easier way to enter a house.

Like most of the lore of Christmas, Santa's choice of the chimney has several explanations. For instance, legend has it that the original Santa, St. Nicholas, presented three maidens with gifts of gold for a dowry. Modestly concealing his generosity, he tossed the gold down a chimney, in secret.

Another theory claims that Santa copied a goddess, who was the first to deliver gifts via a chimney. According to this legend, when the Vikings of Norway celebrated the Yuletide or winter solstice in their great halls, a festive feature of the occasion was the appearance of the goddess Hertha in the fireplace.

As her name indicates, Hertha was goddess of hearth and home, and most appropriately arrived by way of the chimney, to deliver her Yuletide gifts of good luck and good cheer.

Still another explanation takes a practical point of view. Housewives of Northern Europe, cleaning house for the New Year, used to coax children to help with the chores by saying, "Let's clean the hearth. St. Nicholas will soon be coming down the chimney."

The children willingly set to work, and thus, says legend, a tradition was born. Even when he takes to helicopter or jet plane, Santa delivers his gifts by way of the chimney!

In Liberia

Liberians use an oil palm in place of the traditional fir as a Christmas tree. The palm is decorated with red balls, other palm leaves and ferns.

THERE'S MAGIC

The Danish Christmas Eve dinner features rice porridge, containing a "magic" almond that brings good luck to the one who finds it.

NOEL

Now is the time to rejoice in the blessings . . . and be moved by the inspirational meaning . . . of the season. And to express sincere thanks to each customer, whom it has been a real pleasure to serve.

BRAIDNOR CONSTRUCTION LTD.

And Staff

PHONE 542-3348 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

CHRISTMAS

In appreciation of your patronage...

Best wishes to customers and friends for a holiday filled with the happy sounds of laughter. Merry Christmas.

Getzinger's Supermarket

AND STAFF

PHONE 542-3295 - DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Christmas Blessings

"Christ the Saviour is born!" The glad tidings of this age-old story ring out anew, and the message of the Nativity brings joy and blessings.

DRAYDEN INSURANCE & ACCOUNTING LTD.

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

Symbols of the holiday are as various as joy and peace. All mean the spirit of Christmas. Hearty thanks!

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

E & O SEWING BASKET

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

To Wish You

all the joys and blessings of this glorious holiday season . . . is the tradition we treasure. Merry Christmas.

From The Management and Staff

VALLEY DRUG CO. LTD.

PHONE 542-3361 - DRAYTON VALLEY

GREETINGS

At this joyous time of year we extend our greetings to our friends, whose confidence we highly value. Thank you.

Pembina Machine Services Ltd.

Jack Coppens
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

Silent Night May the spirit of that night, on which the Saviour was born, shine upon you in this Christmas season.

Grateful thanks for your continued good will.

DRAYTON BAKERY

Management and Staff
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

In this Merry Season, we are pleased to greet and thank all our loyal customers and friends.

GREETINGS

for Christmas

White Bull Cafe

Jim, Gus and Staff
We will be closed December 25, 26 and January 1st
PHONE 542-3695 - DRAYTON VALLEY

How Many Wise Men? Answers Are Many!

Three wise men?

In New Testament stories of the Nativity, only St. Matthew tells of "wise men from the east" — and how many wise men followed the star to the manger is not stated. The tradition that there were three probably comes from St. Matthew's description of three gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Another explanation for the number three is the legend that the wise men symbolized all humanity, in turn represented by the races of Shem, Ham and Japhet, according to the editors of The New Book of Knowledge.

Early traditions mention varying numbers of wise men. Twelve was the number traditional in the Eastern church, while in the West, mosaics and paintings showed sometimes two, sometimes three, four or more wise men.

During the sixth century, the idea that there were three came to be generally accepted. In legends, the wise men were given names: Melhior, Gasper, Baltasar.

Although St. Mathew did not use the name "Magi," he implied it when he wrote of "wise men," for "magi" was commonly used in Palestine to mean "great, illustrious."

Today, Nativity scenes show three wise men or Magi present at the manger along with the shepherds, who hastened to Bethlehem on the night Christ was born. Some historians, however, believe that the visit of the Magi didn't take place until much later — perhaps a year or even two years after the birth of Christ.

Children Show Generosity, Treat Santa to Surprises

As a certain white-bearded, jolly old gentleman makes his rounds on Christmas Eve, delivering happy surprises to children the world over, he may look forward to being, in turn, surprised.

In the legend and lore of Christmas, giving to Santa is a time-honored tradition, with the gifts usually taking the form of food or beverage. Today, many families encourage children to be generous, by observing the custom of setting out treats for Santa — perhaps some candy, a dish of cookies, a glass of milk.

Through the ages, the gift-giver now known as Santa Claus has been called by many different names, but Santa's predecessors, like Santa himself, were often greeted with special treats.

Filling Pockets

In Italy, Befana is the gift-giver who preceded Santa. She took her name from the name for Twelfth Night — Epiphania, or Epiphany — and brought her gifts on Epiphany Eve, January 5th.

To make ready for Befana, tradition says, Italian children empty their pockets and hang up their clothes. Then into each pocket goes a surprise — something good to eat.

After taking out the treats, Befana refills each pocket with gifts for the children.

Guarding the Home

Sweden has an unusual gift-giver — it's a goat! According to tradition, the Yulbock or Yule goat comes to the door of Swedish homes on Christmas Eve and tosses the family's gifts through the doorway.

Another legendary guest at Swedish holiday celebrations is Tomte, a kind-hearted elf who guards the home. A dish of food is placed in a quiet corner, so that Tomte may feast as he secretly observes the family fun.

Enjoying Pudding

In Denmark and Norway the legendary good spirit of the house is Nisse, who watches over home and farm and is sometimes said to be the gift-bringer, too.

His Christmas treat, the rice pudding traditional at Scandinavian holiday feasts, is placed beside the kitchen door or, on farms, in the hayloft.

Treating the Donkey

Today's Santa relies on his reindeer for transport, but the gift bringers of yesteryear had other animal helpers, who usually shared in the holiday giving and receiving.

In Holland, for instance, legend says that St. Nicholas arrives early — on St. Nicholas Eve, December 5th — riding a white donkey.

For the refreshment of the good saint's donkey, children stuff their shoes with hay and set out a dish of water. Carrots and a potato are sometimes added.

Feeding the Horses

Twelfth Night is, in Spanish tradition, the time for giving gifts, and the traditional gift bearers are the Wise Men, who as they journey each year to Bethlehem bring gifts for good children.

To feed the Wise Men's horses on their long pilgrimage, Spanish children fill their shoes with straw and set them on balconies or window ledges.

December 24-25, 1620

December 1620 marked the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock. A site for the first home in the new settlement was selected on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day construction began.

MERRY Christmas TO ALL!

Carolers sing the joys of Christmas . . . and may those joys be yours. Your generous support and trust is really appreciated. Many, many thanks!

FOUNTAIN TIRE LTD.

Management and Staff
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALTA.

GREETINGS

Have a most delightful holiday season . . . and sincerest thanks for your loyal patronage.

GREEN "T" TEXACO SERVICE

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA

HI! MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here comes Santa to brighten your holiday. Merry Christmas! And thanks for your patronage.

PEMBINA PACKERS LTD.

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA